

SECRET/CONTROL

OPERATIONAL MEMORANDUM
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MGB-A-348

BSC/Ops/138
Berlin
27 August 1947

TO : []
FROM : []

SUBJECT: SKURIN-CAMISADE Anniversary Celebration; and Further Developments in Plan to Introduce U.S. and Russian Officers

1. SKURIN, accompanied by his interpreter and Maj "ANTONOV", visited CAMISADE at 1100 hours, Saturday, 23 August 1947. The interpreter bore a large bundle of food and liquor with which, for three hours, they celebrated the conclusion of the second year of CAMISADE's work for SKURIN. They told him they brought to him the thanks of their commanding general; that they considered him not as an agent, but as a colleague; and that he was the most valuable German working for them.

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Field Comment: Maj "ANTONOV" was first introduced to CAMISADE on 15 August 1947; and he appears to have entered the picture for the purpose of engineering the contemplated meeting of our notional Mr. WEBB with Maj SKURIN's notional Nikolas (cf BSC/Ops/131).

2. ANTONOV, as at the last meeting with CAMISADE in which he participated, led the conversation. He broached the subject of how Mr. WEBB had responded to CAMISADE's suggestion that he meet his friend Nikolas. CAMISADE said that WEBB had not seemed especially interested at the time, but that he did not believe he had lost interest in the matter. ANTONOV told him to change Nikolas' name to Alexander. No reason for this change was given.

Field Comment: If the meeting between WEBB and a representative of SKURIN-ANTONOV takes place, it is planned to have WEBB represented by Mr. S. KAGEN, Intelligence Officer of the Finance Division, OMGUS. Mr. KAGEN, mentally agile and well-versed in political ideologies, will be instructed to give the impression that, although definitely not a communist, he is sympathetic enough to extreme left-wing liberalism to give the Russians some reason for cultivating him. KAGEN does not speak Russian, but he does speak Polish -- a fact he will be instructed to conceal. SKURIN has for some time wanted advance notice of CAMISADE's supposed meetings with WEBB, presumably so that he may place the meetings under surveillance. CAMISADE was instructed to let SKURIN know that he is meeting WEBB at 1100 hours, Monday, 1 September, before the Marmor Haus, a movie theater on Kurfürstendam (British Sector). This meeting will be carried out on the presumption that SKURIN will have it watched, thereby identifying KAGEN in SKURIN's mind as WEBB. CAMISADE will later tell SKURIN that his conversation with WEBB at that meeting turned chiefly on the possibilities of meeting CAMISADE's Russian friend. The meeting on Monday will also

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be under the surveillance of Berlin SC.

3. After discussing the projected meeting, the conversation turned to a discussion of WEBB's interest in journalists and the Soviet press services. When asked by ANTONOV why he thought WEBB was particularly interested in journalists, CAMISADE said probably because WEBB realized there were more agents among journalists than in any other group. At this ANTONOV laughed and agreed. CAMISADE told them that WEBB had specifically asked about personnel changes in SNB and about TASS. The Russian officers reiterated their former counsel to CAMISADE that he should use a free hand in seeking out information about the Soviet press services, promising him complete protection. They did, however, tell him to tell WEBB that there is no TASS office in Berlin; the TASS correspondents have desks at SNB. They gave him the names of Maj TEPLOV and a BARANOV to pass on to WEBB, but then countermanded the instructions on TEPLOV. He was to suggest to WEBB that it would be well if he, CAMISADE, struck up an acquaintance with BARANOV, and then ask WEBB how he would suggest he go about it.

Field Comment: Apparently SKURIN's idea in telling CAMISADE to find out information to give WEBB rather than giving him the information ready-made is to find out how WEBB will go about directing CAMISADE in his investigations. Maj TEPLOV was reported in April in BSC-714 (Source: CAMISADE) as head of the TASS Berlin office. The name of BARANOV is unknown to us.

4. Toward the end of the party, ANTONOV asked CAMISADE if he had ever noticed that there is not, actually, very much difference between Nazism and Communism. CAMISADE, very understandably, made as noncommittal a rejoinder as possible to this startling reflection. What ANTONOV's point was in making such a comment is a mystery to CAMISADE.

TO: FBM for SC Wash 1st Ind

Approved.

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